*Wednesday, September 19, 2012*

**Slice of Life**

John 15:10-13 If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. (11) These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. (12) This is my commandment, that ye love one another, as I have loved you. (13) Greater love hath no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friends. (KJV)

Many Christians are empty shells of a person who at one time became regenerated and renewed in the realm of the Spirit, only to see their candle flicker and blow out with winds of false doctrines. The reason many don’t continue in a joyful loving relationship with our Lord is because they can’t ever get past themselves doing things for others as they would have them done to them. As we see clearly spelled out that there is no greater way to reciprocate the love of God than laying aside our own desires and seeking those of others first. Talk about a total contradiction to what we have been taught and are surrounded with today.

Philippians 2:1-4 If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, (2) Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. (3) Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. (4) Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. (KJV)

The joy of the Lord is our strength; and if you are a bit weak it may be because you are spending too much time and effort on your own things, and not that of our Lord and His people. Do you really desire to please our Lord? Then you need to look beyond self, and be just as diligent for the needs of others as you have been for self. Yeah that is quite a leap of faith, but one that is necessary if you are truly going to grow and mature in the realm of the Spirit.

Romans 12:9-13 Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. (10) Be kindly affectionate one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another; (11) Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; (12) Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer; (13) Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality. (KJV)

That word in verse 9, dissimulation, means hypocrisy; a motive our Lord frowns upon. When you truly are willing to lay down your life for the brethren is when you put their needs before your own; you know, like getting up early when the Lord is asking you to so that you can spend some time in the Word and have a word for them that is needed. That would truly be the way to distribute to the necessity of the saints would it not?

1John 3:14-17 We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death. (15) Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him. (16) Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. (17) But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? (KJV)

We are all aware of the term murder and the seriousness of it and how it destroys a life and those around them as well. Did you know that God considers it murder as well when you have His truth and see a need and don’t respond; that is considered spiritual murder, and many are crucifying our Lord all over again, and killing the meaning of what salvation is really about and how it truly operates. God is love, and He expects His people to operate in love as well; which means, you look beyond self.